

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11

OES-07 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 (ISO) W

-----035743 232256Z /63

R 211310Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6942

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: TAGS: EPAP, PINS, MZ

SUBJECT: HUNTING GUN POSSESSION TO BE LEGAL IN MOZAMBIQUE AFTER
JUNE 1

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. THE GPRM COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ANNOUNCED THAT AS OF JUNE 1, 1978 HUNTING WOULD AGAIN BE LGEAL IN MOZAMBIQUE. SHOOTING OF WILDLIFE WILL BE ALLOWED FOR SPORT, FOOD AND PROTECTION OF LIFE AND PROPERTY HOWEVER, A LICENCE WILL BE REQUIRED AND RESTRICTIONS ON LOCATION AND TYPE OF GAME WILL BE PUBLISHED BY THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE. COMMERCIALIZATION OF GAME MEAT WILL NOT BE PERMITTED, NOR WILL ANY HUNTING BE ALLOWED DURING THE MONTHS OCTOBER THROUGH MARCH, EXCEPT FOR PROTECTION OF LIFE AND PROPERTY. THE ANNOUNCEMENT SPECIFIED THAT KILLING ENDANGERED SPECIES WOULD NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES BE LEGAL.

END UNCLASSIFIED

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2. COMMENT: THE REINSTATEMENT OF HUNTING HAD BEEN RUMORED FOR SOME TIME AND MEETS SEVERAL NEEDS. FOOD, ESPECIALLY MEAT, HAS BEEN SHORT IN RURAL AREAS. AND POACHING WAS ALREADY A PROBLEM. BECAUSE OF THE PROHIBITION ON HUNTING FOR THE PAST THREE AND A HALF YEARS. SOME SPECIES OF ANIMALS (SUCH AS BUFFALO) HAVE MULTIPLIED RAPIDLY

AND HERDS HAVE HAD TO BE THINNED BY WILDLIFE OFFICIALS. FINALLY
SPORT HUNTING IS A SOURCE OF BADLY NEEDED FOREIGN EXCHANGE
ECONOMISTS WORKING FOR THE MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT TOLD EMBASSY THAT
THE DECISION WAS CAREFULLY RESEARCHED AND POSES NO THREAT TO
MOZAMBIQUE RICH WILDLIFE RESOURCES IF PLANNED SAFE GUARDS ARE
ENFORCED.

3. ON IMPORTANT IMPLICATION OF THE DECISION IS THAT THE PRIVATE
POSSESSION OF FIREARMS, BANNED SINCE SEPTEMBER 1974 WILL AGAIN BE
PERMITTED. POLICE OFFICIALS CONFIRMED TO LOCAL BUSINESSMAN (AND
FORMER AVID HUNTER) THAT THOSE WHO PROPERLY REGISTERED THEIR GUNS
IN 1974 WILL BE ALLOWED TO RECLAIM THEM, PROVIDED THE GUNOWNER
POSSESSES A HUNTING LICENSE AND REGISTERS HIS GUN WITH THE
GOVERNMENT.

4. MODIFICATION OF FIREARMS LAW COINCIDES WITH OTHER SMALL BUT
SIGNIFICANT SIGNS THAT THE GPRM IS RELAXING INTERNAL SECURITY
RESTRICTIONS. WITHIN THE PAST THREE MONTHS AIRPORT WAITING ROOMS
HAVE BEEN OPENED TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC, THE ROAD PAST THE RADIO
CLUB (SITE OF PORTUGUESE SETTLE ANTI FRELIMO UPRISING IN SEPTEMBER 19
74
HAS BEEN REOPENED TO TRAFFIC, ADVANCE PERMISSION IS NO LONGER
REQUIRED FOR RECREATIONAL BOATING, AND THE NUMBER OF SOUTH AFRICAN
LICENSE PLATES ON MAPUTO STREETS HAS INCREASED.

5. PERMISSION OF NON RESIDENT HUNTING IS ALSO THE FIRST OFFICIAL
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STEP TOWARD REOPENING MOZAMBIQUE TO FOREIGN TOURISM. WHICH HAS BEEN
DISCOURAGED UP TO THIS POINT.
DE PREE

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